(b) and (c) Presently, there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to funds constraint. The Government may, however, consider declaration of very limited lengths of a few State Highways as National Highway during the course of the Tenth Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

(d) The Central Government is not neglecting these States and provides funds to the State Governments from the Central Road Fund (CRF) for the improvement of State roads. The details of accruals and release of CRF for the Himalayan States are as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Accruals under CRF upto 2002-03	Amount utilised so far	Balance amount as available
1	Jammu & Kashmir	9162.08	2125.02	7037.06
2	Uttaranchal	2937.08	1511.38	1425.70
3	Himachal Pradesh	3145.08	1481.04	1664.04
4	Sikkim	329.00	229.00	100.00
5	Arunachal Pradesh	3279.08	742.00	2537.08
6	West Bengal	10888.08	4447.05	6441.03

Laying of optical fibres along National Highways

†2339. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India is laying optical fibre cable along the National Highways; and

(b) if so, the amount being spent thereon and justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.